

expressions of English journalists at such conduct you would feel as strongly as I do upon this matter. I hope you will all support the resolution."

Mr. Dingman: "As I regard that resolution, it does not reflect upon this association, but disavows this misconduct, and explains that in so far as that goes, no member of this association was guilty of it. That resolution was written only when it was heard that the conduct complained of was nothing short of scandalous. I thought, therefore, it was really incumbent upon this association to say something and protect our good name."

Mr. J. S. Willison: "The association must understand that, owing to the conduct of these people, Canadian journalists were represented in London as a set of sponges and dead beats. We at least are compelled to represent to the British Institute of Journalists that we are not responsible for this conduct."

Mr. Cameron withdrew his objection, and the motion carried unanimously.

The remainder of the report was adopted, and a special expression of thanks was made to the president for the signal service he had rendered the association during the year.

Election of Council.

The ballot was then taken for the election of five members of the council and resulted in the election of the following: Messrs. Wm. Ireland, D. McGillicuddy, J. T. Clark and L. J. Tarte.

There was a tie vote for the fifth place between Messrs. A. G. F. Macdonald and A. H. U. Colquhoun which was disposed of by the president giving a casting vote in favor of Mr. Macdonald, who was declared elected.

General Business.

Mr. Ireland suggested that a fishing and boating camp be held near Parry Sound for those members who desire to take a summer outing, and offered his services in furthering the project, with a guarantee of a good camping ground, plenty of bait and excellent fishing.

The proposal was referred to the executive. Mr. Ireland will also correspond with any members who contemplate joining the party.

Mr. Smith, of St. Johns, Que., president of the Eastern Townships Press Association, conveyed the greetings of that organization to the meeting.

The president then brought up the question of the admission of the members of the Quebec Press Association, as a body, and suggested that they be admitted without charging the annual fees for 1898.

Upon motion of Mr. J. S. Willison, the association unanimously resolved to admit the members of the Quebec association as members of this association upon the terms suggested by the president.

The question of the proposal to reimpose postage upon newspapers was introduced by Mr. Jackson.

After an informal discussion, it was decided that the association as a body take no action, leaving every individual member to take such action as his interests directed.

The new president, Mr. R. Holmes, of The Clinton New Era, was then introduced by the retiring president, and took the chair and briefly returned thanks to the members for the honor conferred upon him.

The association then adjourned.

SUGGESTIONS RE LIBEL LAWS.

By S. S. Ephenson, Planet, Chatham.

A libel is supposed to injure: (1) A man's financial standing, or (2) his character.

In either case there is no reason why he should not give security for costs, because: (1) If he be financially solvent, it makes no difference to him whether he puts up security for costs or not, and (2) if his character is of such an unblemished description as to be injured by a newspaper article, it is apparent he would on that account have very little difficulty in getting the necessary security.

At the same time where a newspaper requires security for costs, the plaintiff in return (but only where such security is demanded) should have the same privilege. The fact is, that the people who usually bring libel suits are impecunious dead-beats, speculative fakirs or shyster lawyers, and while, it is true, they very seldom succeed, yet in every single instance the newspaper is put to costs, loss of time, and trouble.

I would suggest, as a remedy for this state of affairs, that the Legislature be asked to change the law, so that people who considered themselves libelled must in all cases put up the costs when so demanded.

Libel suits ought also to be tried as non-jury cases; speculators and fakirs count on clever lawyers being able to hoodwink juries, thus giving them snap verdicts.

Then again, there should be some restriction against speculative libel suit seekers running into the high court with suits that are hardly important enough to occupy the attention of the county or division court. The result of the present law is that where the speculative plaintiff fails he is worth nothing and the newspaper is stuck for high court costs. The law ought to be amended so that people who imagine their feelings are hurt would have to go to the county court, or else establish before the county judge, by affidavit, the fact that they have been injured to an extent beyond the jurisdiction of the county court; and in all such cases the plaintiff should be required to put up security for costs.

Thus, these three slight amendments would protect reliable, responsible, newspapers from the sharks who are always after them:

1. Trial by judge.
2. Security for costs.
3. Prima facie evidence before county or high court judge that the case is of sufficient importance to be tried in the high court.

MR. MACBRIDE'S APPOINTMENT.

The British press are awakening to the fact that the public are largely interested in Canada, and are devoting more space to Canadian news than ever before. An evidence of this is the appointment of W. D. MacBride, late city editor of The Montreal Gazette, as special correspondent to The London Daily Mail. He contributes a regular weekly letter on political or other occurrences on this side of the water, and sends special cables when there is news of sufficient import to warrant it.

The Child Acme Cutter Co., Boston, have orders beyond the immediate capacity of their works, and orders for their regular and extra heavy self-clamping cutters are delayed in filling on that account. From their Canadian enquiries they anticipate increased orders from this section. Mr. O. E. Child will soon make a business trip through Ontario and Quebec.